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Battelle Energy Alliance Assumes Management of the New Idaho National Laboratory

Today, the Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC (BEA) assumed the management and operational responsibility for the new Idaho National Laboratory, following a transition period lasting nearly three months.

On November 9, 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded BEA a \$4.8 billion, 10 year contract to transform the Idaho facility into the "preeminent" national nuclear energy laboratory.

BEA is owned by the Battelle Memorial Institute. Team members include BWXT Services Inc. of Lynchburg, VA; Washington Group International of Boise, ID; the Electric Power Research Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Idaho National Laboratory will combine the currently existing research and development components of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory-West.

In announcing the contract award to BEA in November, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said: "The Battelle team brings an outstanding reputation, an excellent plan and a superior management team that will make the INL a world-class, multi-program laboratory. This new laboratory was the missing element in our strategy to provide long-term energy security for the nation. We needed a laboratory that can work with the other labs in our complex, academia and industry to advance nuclear power technology and create an entirely new type of nuclear energy plant for the longer term future. The Idaho National Laboratory will play a very important role in our nation's energy future and I look forward to the exciting, ground-breaking technology that will emerge from this new focus."

Leading the Battelle team as Laboratory Director will be John J. Grossenbacher. "We have been given a unique opportunity to lead a national renaissance in nuclear energy and build a world-class national laboratory," he stated. Grossenbacher, who in November 2003 retired as Vice Admiral with the U.S. Navy, is recognized for leading the successful integration and consolidation of the Navy's Atlantic and Pacific submarine forces. During his career he was one of only a handful of officers in U.S. naval history to be awarded both the Stockdale and David Lloyd Awards for Leadership Excellence.

The first day activities on February 1 include a brief ceremony unveiling one of the new laboratory signs as well as comments by William D. Magwood IV, Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology for the U.S. Department of Energy from Washington, DC. The event will also feature state and local officials.

The Battelle leadership management team will spend the next two days visiting the nearly 3,350 employees at work locations across the almost 900 square mile site. Each evening the company will host a reception for employees to discuss the new vision for the laboratory.

The Idaho National Laboratory will conduct science and technology programs in a wide range of disciplines. As a multi-program laboratory, the INL will establish strong programs in areas such as materials science, chemistry, environmental science, computation and simulation. The laboratory will also play a key role by applying its technical expertise to helping protect the country's critical infrastructure and preventing the proliferation of nuclear material.

One of the laboratory's major tasks will be to lead an international research and development effort to create advanced nuclear energy technology. The technology initiative is focused on delivering a modern, economically viable, environmentally responsible and technically achievable nuclear energy option to provide for our country's electrical demand. It is also focused on using nuclear energy to produce hydrogen as a transportation fuel reducing the nation's dependence on imported fossil fuel. This work supports the President's National Hydrogen Fuel Initiative and is an important element in the development of a clean and efficient hydrogen economy in the United States.

The laboratory will also lead the establishment of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES), a collaborative effort between the State of Idaho, the laboratory and universities in Idaho and across the country. This center will bring academia into the life of the laboratory in a substantive way and provide students and professors access to the laboratory's unique capabilities. Through this center, the INL will become a nationally and internationally recognized focal point in the advancement of education in energy science and technology.

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